

## Message Text

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16

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6290

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, KS, CE

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM ROK PRIMIN TO SRI LANKA PRIMIN

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 11, MOFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU DIRECTOR CHUNG U-YONG PROVIDED TEXT OF LETTER SENT TELEGRAPHICALLY AUGUST 10 FROM PRIME MINISTER CHOE KYU-HA TO PM BANDARANAIKE OF SRI LANKA EXPLAINING ROK POSITION ON UNIFICATION OF KOREA IN ADVANCE OF NAM MEETING IN COLOMBO. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO EXPRESS MY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY ON HOSTING THE 5TH SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IN YOUR COUNTRY UNDER YOUR ABLE LEADERSHIP. IT IS MY SINCERE WISH THAT THIS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WILL GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROMOTION OF WORLD PEACE AND THE WELFARE OF THE WHOLE MANKIND.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE KOREAN QUESTION WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED AT THE CONFERENCE, I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THE LEADERS PARTICIP-TING IN THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE OF OUR BASIC POSITION FOR THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE KOREAN QUESTION.

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4. FIRST, WE ARDENTLY ASPIRE TO HAVE THE KOREAN PENINSULA REUNIFIED ONLY BY PEACEFUL MEANS. TWENTY-THREE YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, BUT TENSIONS BETWEEN THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH OF KOREA ARE CONTINUING AND THE DANGER OF RECURRENCE OF WAR STILL EXISTS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE STRONGLY BELIEVE, PEACE MUST BE FIRMLY MAINTAINED ABOVE ALL.

5. SECOND, WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION COULD NOT BE REALIZED WITHOUT RECONCILIATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH OF KOREA, THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED, AND THAT SUCH CONDITIONS CAN ONLY BE REALIZED BY WAY OF THE CONTINUATION OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. ALTHOUGH THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS DEBATED AND ADOPTED NUMEROUS RESOLUTIONS ON THE KOREAN QUESTION DURING THE LAST THIRTY YEARS, IT RENDERED NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS. ON THE CONTRARY, THE EXCHANGE OF BITTER ARGUMENTS AND CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH OF KOREA HAVE CONTINUED IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, THUS ACCUMULATING AND HEIGHTENING TENSIONS IN THE REGION. OBVIOUSLY, WE CANNOT EXPECT TO HAVE THE TENSIONS REDUCED OR MUTUAL TRUST RESTORED WITHOUT CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH.

6. THIRD, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE PRESENT KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN PLAYING A VITAL ROLE AS A SAFETY-VALVE AGAINST THE RECURRENCE OF MILITARY CONFLICTS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA WHERE NO FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS HAVE YET BEEN CREATED FOR THE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH. THEREFORE, UNLESS ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES CONCERNED, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CONCEIVE THE UNCONDITIONAL DISSOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND. IT WOULD LEAD TO A SITUATION WHERE THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT MAY BE QUESTIONED AS THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IS A PARTY SIGNATORY TO THE AGREEMENT. SUCH EVENTUALITY WOULD RAPIDLY INCREASE THE DANGER OF RENEWED ARMED CONFLICT, AND CONSEQUENTLY THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SUCURITY IN KOREA AND NORTHEAST ASIA WOULD BE SERIOUSLY THREATENED. IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC

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OF KOREA WELCOMED THE RECENT JULY 22ND PROPOSALS BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE CONFERENCE OF FOUR PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

7. FOURTH, IT IS POINTED OUT THAT NORTH KOREA, SHARING BORDERS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, IS FIRMLY ALIGNED WITH BOTH OF THEM UNDER MILITARY PACTS AND THAT IT HAS NEVER ABANDONED ITS SCHEME OF KOREAN

UNIFICATION BY VIOLENT REVOLUTIONARY MEANS, INCLUDING FORCE OF ARMS. IT IS UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA COULD HARDLY CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES STATIONED IN THE SOUTH UNDER THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA - UNITED STATES MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.

8. FIFTH, IT IS OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT THE POSITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, EMBRACING MORE THAN THE TWO-THIRDS OF THE ENTIRE FIFTY MILLION OF KOREAN POPULATION AND PRESENTLY MAINTAINING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH AS MANY AS 96 NATIONS, OUGHT TO BE RESPECTED IN ANY INTERNATIONAL DELIBERATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF KOREA. IT IS EVIDENT THAT WITHOUT MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH OF KOREA, IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY RESOLUTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS ON KOREA COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED.

9. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, WE BELIEVE THAT THE WAY IN WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, WHETHER IT BE THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE OR ANY OTHER CONFERENCES, CAN CONTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO A RATIONAL AND REALISTIC SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION IS TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO AN UNCONDITIONAL RESUMPTION OF THE SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE SO THAT THE KOREAN PROBLEMS CAN BE DEALT WITH AND SETTLED THROUGH DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

10. AVAILING MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY, I WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR ONCE AGAIN THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, COGNIZANT OF THE PARAMOUNT ASPIRATION OF THE ENTIRE KOREAN PEOPLE FOR A PEACEFUL UNIFICATION, IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH NORTH KOREA WITH SINCERITY AND PATIENCE ON THE BASIS OF THE SOUTH-NORTH

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON 4 JULY, 1972. IT IS ALSO THE POSITION OF MY GOVERNMENT, AS HAS BEEN MANIFESTED IN THE SPECIAL STATEMENT REGARDING FOREIGN POLICY FOR PEACE AND UNIFICATION ON 23 JUNE 1973, THAT IT WILL ENDEAVOUR TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY AND EQUALITY, REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES IN IDEOLOGIES AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS.

11. I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY BEST WISHES FOR THE CONTINUING GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS OF YOUR EXCELLENCY AND FOR THE WELFARE AND PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA, COUPLED WITH OUR SINCERE WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 5TH SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO BE HELD IN YOUR GREAT COUNTRY.

12. COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE. UNQUOTE.  
STERN

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